

A verified English translation of Japanese Patent Application No. Hei 8-309036 is being filed concurrently with this Amendment. This perfects the claim for priority made when the subject U.S. application was filed on July 28, 1997, together with a certified copy of Japanese Patent Application No. Hei 8-309036. As a result, the effective filing date of the subject U.S. application is the filing date of Japanese Patent Application No. Hei 8-309036, i.e., November 20, 1996.

The filing date of Motoyama is June 13, 1997 which is over six months after the effective filing date of the subject U.S. application. Therefore, Motoyama is not prior art. Withdrawal of the rejection, reconsideration of the claims and an early Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

If any further fees are required in connection with the filing of this Amendment, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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